

Remember that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The common theme among these types of fraud is that the scammer is trying to get something from you. Your personal information and, ultimately, your money and safety are at risk. In order to stay safe and secure:

- Speak up! Talk with people you trust about financial decisions.
- Do not give out your personal information over the phone, through email, or in person.
- Keep home, garage, car, and out-building doors and windows locked at all times.
- Use video doorbells and intercoms when talking with strangers.
- Stay up to date on anti-virus software and delete suspicious emails.
- Never pay ransoms or extra money!
- Check business licenses and references in order to verify businesses.
- Take your time. Scammers will rush you to make a decision quickly so you don't have time to think.
- Don't pay fees or money in advance for services that haven't been completed.

Report suspicious activity—to the police, to the Federal Trade Commission, your bank and/or to the Better Business Bureau.

**Adult Protective Services
Lake County
(847) 546-5733
www.catholiccharities.net**

**Illinois Department on Aging
800-279-0400 (Senior HelpLine -
evenings / weekends / holidays)
www2.illinois.gov/aging**

**Illinois Nursing Home
Complaint Line
800-252-4343**

**Supportive Living Facilities
Complaint Hotline
800-226-0768**

**Lake County Sheriff's Office
847-377-4000
www.lakecountyil.gov**

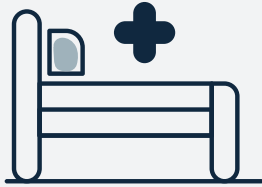
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SENIORS: Don't Get Scammed



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In-home caregivers begin asking for minor financial assistance beyond their salary, often turning into the caregiver stealing checks or using credit cards belonging to the person receiving care.



Home Repair Fraud: inflated prices for poor work; down-payments without work

Ruse Burglary: One person comes to the door and distracts the lone resident, while an accomplice enters the house through an unlocked door in another part of the house

Financial abuse of persons aged 60 and older has been described as “**the crime of the 21st century.**” The Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office wants to ensure that **YOU** never fall for these types of scams.



Grandparent Scam: Caller pretends to be a grandchild in need of immediate financial help

IRS Scam: Caller poses as the IRS, threatening prosecution for supposedly unpaid taxes

Telemarketing Fraud (“Extended Warranty” and other claims you must “act now”): Caller implies that he or she has information about your car or finances, and suggests there is an offer to help you; by the end of the call, the caller is seeking your personal information



“You’ve Won!” E-mails

An e-mail from an unknown person tells the recipient he or she has lucked into a large sum of money that can only be accessed by providing an initial down payment or by providing certain personal information

Sweetheart Scams

Through social media, a previously unknown person develops a relationship—often with romantic undertones—with the target, eventually asking for money or personal information that will supposedly help the new “friend” out of a jam

Malware / Ransomware

Computer hackers create pop-up windows or links that, when clicked on, subject the user’s computer to viruses, or demands for money in order to “unlock” the computer